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IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/870,871
Applicant : John Stephen Cart
Filed : May 31, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1712
Examiner : Tucker, Phillip C.
Docket No. : 15564-1

TITLE: Composition of Drilling Fluids Comprising Ground Elastomeric Crumb Rubber Material and a Method of Decreasing Seepage and Whole Mud Loss Using such Composition

**MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P. O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450**

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

This paper is being filed in response to the Examiner's Action dated December 4, 2003 requiring that a response be mailed to the Office before the shortened statutory period for response to the action expired on March 4, 2003. No new matter is being added by this response. A petition for extension of two months and the required extension fee are being transmitted with this response. I do not believe that any additional fees are due; however, should there be any fees due, please charge Deposit Account No. 11-0245.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

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